## IN THE CLAIMS:

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented):  A data processing system comprising:

    a bus;

    a plurality of devices connected to the bus; and

    a mimic device connected to the bus, wherein the mimic device monitors the bus for a signal selecting a selected device within the plurality of devices for an input/output transaction during initialization of an operating system within the data processing system, monitors the bus for a response by the selected device in response to detecting the signal selecting the device, and sends a response to the signal a selected period of time passes without a response being made by the selected device, wherein the response indicates to the operating system that the selected device is present within the data processing system.

28. (Original):  The method of claim 27, wherein the bus is a small computer system interface bus.

29. (Original):  The method of claim 28, wherein the signal is a busy signal.

30. (Previously Presented):  A data processing system comprising:

    a bus;

    a plurality of devices attached to the bus; and

    a mimic device attached to the bus, wherein the mimic device has a plurality of modes of operation including:

        a first mode of operation in which the mimic device monitors the bus for a request to a selected device within the plurality of devices;

        a second mode of operation, responsive to detecting the request, in which the mimic device monitors the bus for a response from the selected device; and

a third mode of operation, responsive to an absence of a response from the selected device within a period of time, in which the mimic device sends a mimicked response to the request onto the bus.

31. (Previously Presented):  The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the mimicked response includes sending a busy signal onto the bus.

32. (Previously Presented):  The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the mimicked response includes sending a not ready signal onto the bus.

33. (Previously Presented):  The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the mimicked response includes sending a second signal onto the bus.

34. (Original):  The data processing system claim 30, wherein the bus is a small computer system interface bus.

35-45. (Canceled)